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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/089,875 | TEEM, JOHN L | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Michele K. Joike, Ph.D. | 1636 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/26/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 32, 36-57, 60-61, 64-65 and 68.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of _____, Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>20070317</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Doran Pace on March 13, 2007.

In the claims:

Claim 1 (Amended). A method for detecting or determining the interaction of a first CFTR polypeptide with a second CFTR polypeptide, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a first polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein comprising all or a portion of a first CFTR polypeptide and a DNA binding domain of a transcriptional activator that can bind to a site on a detectable gene, wherein said first CFTR polypeptide comprises a first nucleotide binding domain (NBD 1) of a CFTR polypeptide, or a functional fragment of said NBD 1;
- (b) providing a second polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein comprising all or a portion of a second CFTR polypeptide and a transcriptional activation domain of a transcriptional activator that can activate transcription of said detectable gene, wherein said second CFTR polypeptide comprises a first nucleotide binding domain (NBD1) of a CFTR polypeptide, or a functional fragment of said NBD 1;
- (c) incorporating said first and second polynucleotide into a host cell comprising said

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detectable gene wherein transcription of said detectable gene is under control of said transcriptional activator;

(d) expressing said polynucleotide encoding said first CFTR polypeptide and expressing said polynucleotide encoding said second CFTR polypeptide under conditions in which said detectable gene is expressed when said NBD 1 of said first CFTR polypeptide and said NBD 1 of said second CFTR polypeptide interact; and

(e) detecting transcription of said detectable gene or expression of the gene product of said detectable gene.

Claim 6 (Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein one or both of said CFTR polypeptides comprises amino acid ~~residue~~ residues 351 through 650 of the human CFTR protein sequence.

Claim 37 (Amended). The method according to claim 32, wherein one or both of said CFTR polypeptides comprises amino acid ~~residue~~ residues 351 through 650 of the human CFTR protein sequence.

Claim 50 (Amended). The host cell according to claim 45, wherein one or both of said CFTR polypeptides comprises amino acid ~~residue~~ residues 351 through 650 of the human CFTR protein sequence.

Also, as requested by Applicant, the Examiner has reviewed the drawings and finds them acceptable.

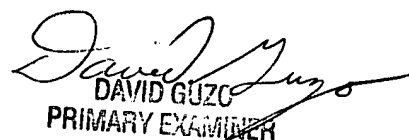
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michele K. Joike, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-5915. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Remy Yucel, Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0781. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michele K Joike, Ph.D.
Examiner
Art Unit 1636


DAVID GUZO
PRIMARY EXAMINER